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Career Tech programs provide student opportunities

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Wildcats drop pair of home games

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public NOTICE

PUBLIC AUCTION
In accordance with Alabama Code 32 Section 32-13-1 the following vehicle(s) will be sold at auction on Tuesday March 9, 2021 at 8:30 am at One Shot Auto, 1200 East Park Ave Enterprise AL 36330.

For more information on this and other public notices, see page 5B.

Enterprise's first black mayor

Cooper strives to always remember where he came from

CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

By Josh Boutwell

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Editor's Note: This is the first part in a series honoring black leaders in the history of the Wiregrass in honor of Black History Month.

William "Bill" Cooper is the City of Progress' first black mayor and is proud of that fact but has worked his whole life to remain humble no matter the level of success he finds.

Cooper was raised on East Burdeshaw Street in Dothan by his father - an insurance agent - and his mother - an elementary school teacher in Ashford - to be humble and to strive to only help, not hurt those around him.

"My momma and dad taught us that it doesn't matter how high a bird flies, eventually it has to come back down and don't ever get too high and mighty to forget where you came from," Cooper remembered. "Always be humble and be kind to people and you'll get somewhere. I will never allow myself to be in a situation where I look over somebody. If you can't help someone, don't hurt them."

Cooper earned a music scholarship to Alabama State University right smack dab in the middle of the Civil Rights Movement. When he came to ASU, Cooper said he was oblivious to many of the struggles going on in the Capital City at the time.

"Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King was pastor of

Dexter Avenue Baptist Church (in Montgomery) at that time. I did not know what was going on but they had had the Montgomery Bus Boycott and demonstrations and sit-ins and I didn't even know what it was all about," Cooper said. "I saw some people in robes and I didn't even know you call them the KKK. Someone burned a cross at the bottom of our stadium and all of this was news to me."

"I had a chance to go down to Dexter Avenue when they attempted to march one Sunday evening to the capital and they came with fire hoses and police dogs and horses and drove those folks back to the church. I was there and I saw it with my own eyes."

Cooper said that he began attending many of King's rallies and even got to know the man.

"I went to a lot of Dr. King's rallies and one of the many (songs) he loved was 'Precious Lord' and I had a chance to play it at many of his rallies," Cooper said with a gleam in his eyes. "He knew me by name and he and I were both members of the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity."

Cooper said he grew up fighting back when

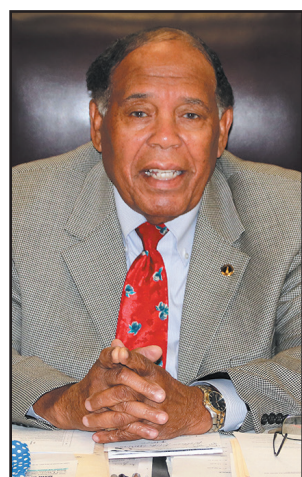


Photo by Kay Kirkland

William Cooper is Enterprise's first black mayor. He served on the Enterprise City Council for more than 20 years.

someone pushed you, so he learned a lot about nonviolence from the late great Dr. King.

"He's where I learned about nonviolence," Cooper emphasized. "Down in Dothan as boys, we would fight. You hit me and I'll hit you back, I'll knock the hell out of you."

"I saw how he got his message across without responding to violence with more violence. I learned a great deal from him."

It was during this time Cooper met and befriended another famous Civil Rights leader.

"One Saturday I was getting ready to come back home and we were at the bus station when the Freedom Riders came down," Cooper said. "They came in the bus station and all these people crowded around them and started fighting with them."

"I had some shades in my (shirt) pocket and they hit me and the shades broke and cut my chest. I was down on the floor in the back there and there was a young man from Troy, Alabama named John Lewis. I met him on

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COVID-19 vaccine range to include people 65 and older

Special to The Sun

Gov. Kay Ivey and the Alabama Department of Public Health announced Jan. 29 that starting Feb. 8, ADPH will extend eligibility for COVID-19 vaccinations to include people 65 or older and additional groups of frontline workers.

The Vaccine Allocation Plan is available at www.alabamapublichealth.gov/covid19vaccine/assets/adph-covid19-vaccination-allocation-plan.pdf.

Frontline critical workers listed in the plan are as follows:

- *First responders;
- *Corrections officers;
- *Food and agriculture workers;
- *U.S. Postal Service workers;

- *Manufacturing workers;
- *Grocery store workers;
- *Public transit workers;
- *People who work in the education sector (teachers, support staff, community college and higher education);
- *Childcare workers; and,
- *Judiciary (including but not limited to) circuit judges, district judges and district attorneys

The additional priority groups will add over 1 million people that are eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccination in Alabama. While just under 2 million people will qualify to receive the vaccine, the state continues to only receive around 100,000 doses each week.

As of Jan. 29, 148,549 doses of

the Pfizer vaccine and 175,326 doses of the Moderna vaccine have been given out to first responders, residents and staff of Alabama's nursing homes and individuals 75 and older.

A total of 772,275 vaccines have been delivered to Alabama, meaning that 42 percent of what has already been delivered to the state has been administered.

"We have all been frustrated that the supply of vaccine coming from the federal government hasn't kept up with the demand," Ivey said. "To be blunt, we simply haven't gotten the vaccine that we've been promised, and this has created a major backlog of aggravation. Today's announcement will ensure that as more vaccine is released,

we will have a plan in place to get the vaccine in people's arms more quickly."

Covered in this expanded group are people at high risk for work-related exposure and persons in identified age groups at risk for COVID-19 associated morbidity and mortality. These include people working or living in congregate settings including but not limited to homeless shelters and group homes.

"Alabama is expanding its guidance despite the limited vaccine in order to accelerate the vaccine uptake in our state," ADPH Director Dr. Scott Harris said. "I want to reiterate that any remaining vaccines that

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Bonneau-Jeter hardware building co-owner Laurie Chapman shows how the rope pulley operated elevator in the two story building works.



The Bonneau-Jeter sign was replaced by the Elba Rexall Drugs sign in 1956.

Historic hardware store gets new life

By Michelle Mann

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"Passionate about helping downtown Elba look its best" is one way Laurie Chapman describes herself.

Saving a historic building on the courthouse square in the City of Flowing Wells is her newest project.

Chapman and her husband, Jim, purchased the Bonneau-Jeter Hardware Building in Elba. "We bought this right before the COVID pandemic started so a lot

of what we had planned to do has been put on hold," she said, adding that in September 2020, Hurricane Sally hit causing significant roof damage resulting in damage inside the building. "We're just trying to save the building at this point."

The building, constructed in 1903, most recently made headlines when it was included among eight Alabama properties on the "2020 Places in Peril List."

"Places in Peril" is a program of the Alabama Historical Commission and the Alabama Trust

for Historic Preservation with a goal of heightening public awareness of historic buildings across the state that are under threat of demolition or deterioration. "We realize now more than ever the importance of saving places that represent all Alabamians, places that tell the whole story of our state," said Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation Vice President Katie Randall. "By recognizing the most endangered places in our state and bringing their stories to

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